

October 2, 1951.

Miss Esabelle Havens,  
Dept. of Medicine,  
University of Chicago,  
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Dear Miss Havens:

Thank you for your letter of August 22, pointing out the peculiar properties (urease-production) of your strains 519345 and 520214. I hope to take advantage of them at some future date, and have preserved them accordingly.

I was away part of September, and we are only now clearing away a backlog of cultures. We are essentially current now, but these particular cultures (our # 1161 and 1162) are in process this moment. We haven't had a "break", by way of a fertile strain, for some time now, but this type of fluctuation is only to be expected.

Both cultures look rather more like *Aerobacter* than typical coli [callobiose-fermentation; gumminess]. I suspect, however, that they are not of recent common origin: they are most readily distinguished by their appearance when streaked out on sucrose-EMB agar. This may be some reassurance to you or to the ward nurse.

One casualty : a recent carton was badly crushed in the mails, but some tubes survived. I don't see how this kind of thing can be avoided (by us, at any rate).

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg.